



# U.S. Department of Agriculture Personnel Security Bulletin #10-09

## **Subject: Aligning OPM Investigative Levels with Reform Concepts**

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**Issue:** The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has announced standardized investigative levels and request procedures beginning in fiscal year (FY) 2011.

**Date Issued:** September 13, 2010

**Effective Date:** October 1, 2010

**Scope and Effect:** This is an internal advisory document for use by USDA personnel involved in implementing USDA's personnel security program.

**Supersession:** None.

**Procedure:** The attached document outlines the changes and enhancements to OPM investigative levels and request procedures as the first step towards achieving alignment under the security and suitability reform goals for reciprocity.

Some investigative levels have been eliminated, such as the **Limited Background Investigation (LBI)**. Any requests for an LBI submitted in error in FY 2011 will be automatically converted to a Moderate Risk Background Investigation (MBI).

OPM now provides **one level of investigation for each level of risk or sensitivity level**. A chart is provided in the attachment. OPM has incorporated enhanced subject interviews and expandable focused investigation concepts into all background investigations to provide more issue information to support timely adjudicative assessments.

**Please ensure this bulletin is forwarded to all staff members who prepare background investigation requests.** A revised Request for Personnel Security Services (AD-1187) form will be forwarded for use in all requests beginning October 1, 2010.

**Further Information:** For further information, please contact PDSD at 202-720-7373.